

BOARD OF HEALTH PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 28, 2009
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Board members Mielke, Stuart, and Boldt, Chair, present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The board conducted the Flag Salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Boldt asked for more information about consent item #2.

John Wiesman, Director, Public Health stated it was from the National Association of Cities and Counties Health Officials. He said is a grant to help them with the Medical Reserve Corps. He stated they have been receiving this for a couple years now. He said the national organization is receiving these funds from the federal government and then disbursing them to the local communities.

Boldt shared a topic he discussed at the recent council of government meeting and asked if the Medical Reserve Corps assisted the elderly people during severe snow storms.

Wiesman stated right now in Clark County Public Health they have an individual who is specifically working on special population needs. He stated the Medical Reserve Corp is a volunteer organization with physicians, nurses and folks without medical training who can be deployed in a public health capacity.

Boldt asked for there to be a future presentation about the Medical Reserve Corp to explain their services.

Wiesman said that could be arranged.

There being no public comment, **MOVED** by Stuart to approve items 1 through 4. Board members Boldt, Stuart, and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John Wiesman, Director, Public Health presented.

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Strategic Initiative 1 -Strengthening PH Infrastructure

Wiesman congratulated Commissioner Mielke on his recent election and welcomed him to the Board of Health. He updated the board on the state funding forecast including proposed DOH cuts for the current biennium. He stated there are three areas in which he wanted to update them on local public health funding: DSHS cuts affecting them this biennium, the Governor's proposed budget for next biennium and Representative Moeller's public health funding bill. He stated DSHS planned to end the Family Planning contracts at the Community Services Offices (CSO) on December 31st then on January 31st, and then yesterday they got word that they are not planning to cut this service, which has caused some confusion.

Boldt stated he understood there was a lot of correspondence going back and forth.

Wiesman stated that was correct and that it is a very large agency and the communication is coming out as they are able and is a bit confusing on the local level.

Boldt asked if it was due to the transition between the two Secretaries.

Wiesman stated that could be part of it. He said this was one of those programs that they intended to transition to the community and they are in negotiations with DSHS about a process to move forward. He stated he was concerned about their approach and will want to have more discussions with them. He stated they feel strongly it should be a public health agency not a non-profit organization and have talked about another county providing that service. He said he did not like that idea and would like to have further discussions with them. *Wiesman* said he is also waiting for the March economic forecast to see where the budget is at.

Stuart inquired if the federal stimulus package has dollars in it to positively impact at the state level for public health.

Wiesman stated there are pieces to it and some of the pieces include funding the preventative health block grant dollars which are flexible dollars for prevention. He also mentioned Medicaid, WIC funding, and family planning. *Wiesman* said he would also be watching it as it goes through the House and Senate to see where it ends up.

Stuart stated it would be great to follow it as there are a lot of local organizations that are wondering as well.

Wiesman stated the National Associations of Counties and City Health officials are our national lobby organization in which he sits on the board. He said he will be there in March and hopes to arrange some visits.

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Wiesman said DSHS is also cutting part of the funding for the Apple Health program which streamlines applications for children's medical insurance. He said the good news they were not counting on it in their budget this year, so it will not have an impact on their work. He also said DSHS will be cutting Maternity Support Services (MSS) Infant Case Management (ICM) by at least 5 percent. He stated they are watching it and Marni Storey is participating at the State level. He said they are working to redesign the system to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the program long-term if they go through these kinds of cuts.

Boldt asked if that the one was one they talked about at WSAC, where there was a lot of counties pushing for it.

Wiesman said that is correct and he thinks providing support to parents, especially first time / early / low income folks, who don't have a lot of resources is a way to a healthy start for a kid. He said they feel very strong about that program and appreciate WSAC support. He said knowing there must be cuts in this budget climate, the public health directors are pleased that the Governor's budget includes all of their current flexible funding. *Wiesman* stated the Governor and the Secretary did a good job of protecting the flexible funding, which allows them to put money where they need it most. He stated the Secretary has been watching all of cuts at the county level for public health which totaled at this point about 33 million dollars. He stated there are some proposed categorical reductions which will have impacts if passed by the legislature including a 10% reduction in AIDSNet funding, eliminating the state universal vaccine distribution program, and all group B public water systems. He stated if the last one passes they will need to have a policy conversation about what they should be doing in Clark County. He stated in general, he feels these are "tolerable" reductions given the economically environment they are in and are pleased the most important funding has been retained.

Wiesman reported on Representative Moeller's bill, House Bill 1307 which would support public health. He said the bill primarily does three things, it give local option revenue for public health, it creates a single account for public health funding that would be distributed and it ties accountability to the performance for the existing public health standards. He said those components are the right way to go and WSALPHO/WSAC is supportive. He said there are still some details to work out as some people are not excited about the bottle water tax.

Boldt thought that would create some problems considering they are already having a hard time to get kids to drink water versus pop. He said that is the wrong avenue.

Wiesman said that conservation is being considered. He said they will continue to work with WSAC and the Representative on a number of changes to the bill. He stated he is heading up a State Public Health group which is looking at funding and trying to respond with WSAC on these issues.

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Boldt mentioned for him to contract Representative Herrera as she is on a sub committee with DSHS.

Wiesman said on February 18th, public health will be doing their advocacy day and looking forward to having the Board of Health members joining them.

Strategic Initiative 2 - Responding to health threats

Wiesman introduced *Nathan Weed* and *Dan Rubado* from Public Health. They presented a handout summarizing the after action reports on public health incidents including the winter floods and incidents with fever and pertussis (whooping cough).

(Please see master file for handout)

Weed presented on the winter floods and fever incidents.

Mielke inquired more explanation about the fever incident.

Alan Melnick, Health Officer, Public Health explained further about the fever incident stating it was the time of year when viral infections were going on and stated it was not an unusual event. He stated the level of response by public health was driven as much by the result of the media attention as by the circumstance.

Rubado presented on the pertussis (whooping cough) incident back in September 2008.

Stuart asked if there was follow up with the church to promote further education on vaccination.

Marni Storey, Public Health Services Manager, Public Health stated the church supported and promoted immunization. She stated they encouraged their congregation through sermon and other avenues.

Boldt stated this kind of work / services needs to be presented to our legislators.

Wiesman said he would work with Don Strick in PIO in getting this in a story format to use with the legislators.

Mielke also mentioned getting something together to get some recognition in the newspaper.

Rubado stated he was also writing an article for a publication.

Melnick reported on the Salmonella outbreak. He stated there have been 13 incidents in Washington with the last one being reported January 8th. He said there has been one

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incident in Clark County which was reported in November 2008. He said there have been over 500 cases national wide with 8 deaths. He referred to the notes for further explanation / symptoms of Salmonella - (*See master file*). He stated originally it was traced to a peanut butter that was mostly sold to institutions but it turned out the origin was from products made by the Peanut Corporation of America. He stated they have put some information on their website as well as the link to the FDA with the latest recall information. He stated the county is going to be verifying the products are being removed from the shelves.

Stuart asked for further details on what to look for.

Melnick encouraged visiting the following websites: <http://www.clark.wa.gov/health/> or <http://www.doh.wa.gov/> or <http://www.fda.gov/> He stated the list continues to grow, so the bottom line is that jars of peanut butter have been ok, it's the other products like crackers that have peanut butter you have to watch out for and even some granola bars made with peanut butter.

Barron stated he noticed Fred Meyer's was putting out signs around peanut related items as a suggestive warning.

Mielke stated he also received a letter from Costco.

Strategic Initiative 5 – Good Health at Every Age

Marni Storey, Public Health Services Manager, Public Health presented a PowerPoint presentation on the prenatal care access project.

(Please see master file for handout)

Stuart stated he had some concerns about Medicaid patients being turned away from places that get public funds.

Storey agreed and explained more barriers / challenges they are facing and ways to overcome them.

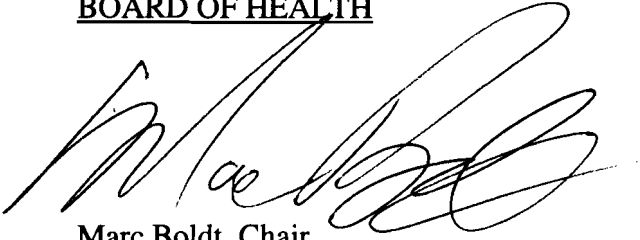
Boldt asked if they stressed the importance of the first trimester.

Storey stated yes and mentioned that multiple organizations are continuously working together to get that message across.

Stuart stated the need for the education needs to be up front. He said the more education the better.

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BOARD OF HEALTH



Marc Boldt, Chair




Steve Stuart, Board Member



Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:



Deputy Clerk of the Board

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